

REMARKS

Claim 1 was amended, claims 2-50 are canceled, and claims 51-56 are added. No new matter is added. Support is found throughout the specification and drawings especially at Figures 1-8.

During prosecution of the parent application, serial number 09/864,160, the Examiner found claims 4 and 19 to be allowable, but objected to them as depending on rejected independent claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form with the exception of the loop containing sections having a shorter leg member, and claim 4 is further limited in new claims 51, 53, and 55 as presented herein. Support for claims 51, 53, and 55 is found in former claim 4, the Figures and throughout the specification especially at page 10, lines 22-28.

Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form with the exception of the loop containing sections having a shorter leg member, and claim 19 is further limited in new claims 52, 54, and 56 as presented herein. Support for claims 52, 54, and 56 is found in former claim 19, the Figures, and throughout the specification, especially at page 10, lines 22-28.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of above-mentioned claim 4 with the exception of the loop containing sections having a shorter leg member, and further limited as presented herein. Support for claim 1 is also found in former claim 4, the Figures, and throughout the specification especially at page 10, lines 22-28.

Cont. of Appl. No. 09/864,160

PATENT

Docket No. 4303-4006US1

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as currently pending are patentable and in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.